

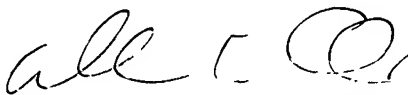
**REMARKS**

The application has been amended to adapt the specification and claims of the underlying international application to U.S. practice. Claims 1 to 8, as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2003/009922 have been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 9 to 17 have been added.

Applicant believes that no fees are due as a result of this amendment. In the event of a fee discrepancy, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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